In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A bio-stable hydrogel comprising ~~the combination of acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide in amounts to provide~~ about 0.5 to 25% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of a polymer, based on the total weight of the ~~hydrogelwherein~~ hydrogel, the polymer consisting essentially of a polymer prepared from combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide, wherein said biostable hydrogel is in a form suitable for the treatment of incontinence ~~and~~ or vesicouretal reflux~~;~~ and ~~is substantially free of~~ wherein said bio-stable hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units.

2. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein said ~~combination~~ polymer of acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide is obtained by combining the acrylamide and the methylene bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

3. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising less than 15% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

4. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising at least 1% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

5. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

6. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, for use in the treatment of incontinence.

7. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 42, further comprising at least 75% by weight ~~pyrogen-free~~ water or saline solution.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of treating incontinence or vesicouretal reflux comprising administering a hydrogel to a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5 to 25% by weight, ~~polyacrylamide~~ based on the total weight of the hydrogel, of a polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene-bis-acrylamide and ~~is substantially free of monomeric units~~ wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel is obtainable by combining acrylamide and methylene-bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 15% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 80% by weight ~~pyrogen-free~~ water or saline solution.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the administering comprises injecting the hydrogel.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the injecting of the hydrogel comprises injections which include

injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the urethra for the treatment of urinary incontinence;
injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the colon or rectum for the treatment of anal incontinence; or
injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the ureter for the treatment of vesicouretal reflux.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the inclusion of cells.

18. (Currently amended) A prosthetic device for increasing the resistance of conduits comprising a urethra, a rectum, a colon, or a ureter wherein said device is injectable and comprises a hydrogel as defined in any of claims 1 to [[8]] 7.

19. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, further comprising cells.

20. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising less than 10% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising less than 3.5% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

24. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising at least 1.5% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The biostable hydrogel composition of claim 42, wherein washing is done with ~~pyrogen-free~~ water.

29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 10% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

30. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 7.5% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 5% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 3.5% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

33. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.5% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.6% by weight ~~polyacrylamide~~ of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells comprise stem cells.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the ureter, urethra or *analis canalis.*

39. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the cells include stem cells.

40. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the ureter, urethra or *analis canalis.*

41. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the device increases the resistance of the urethra to treat urinary incontinence, increases the resistance of the rectum or colon to treat anal incontinence or increases the resistance of the ureter to treat vesicouretal reflux.

42. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1 which is made under the conditions of radical initiation and washing with ~~pyrogen-free~~ water or saline solution.

43. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 42 comprising at least 85% by weight ~~pyrogen-free~~ water or saline solution.

[[43]]44. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1 comprising at least 90% by weight ~~pyrogen free~~ water or saline solution.

45. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1 comprising at least 95% by weight ~~pyrogen free~~ water or saline solution.

46. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas.

48. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein incontinence is selected from the group consisting of urinary and anal incontinence.

49. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein incontinence is selected from the group consisting of urinary and anal incontinence.

Support for the amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, for instance on page 7, lines 5-8, and in the claims as originally filed.